

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION & NEWS UPDATE - 128
21st July 2009**

Safeguarding Children: A review of arrangements in the NHS for safeguarding children (16/07/09)

This review indicates that most organisations had the right people and systems to help protect children, but there are shortfalls in staff up to date with mandatory training to help them identify and respond to concerns.

Other issues include:

- Lack of clarity over the roles of doctors and nurses with specific responsibility for safeguarding – some 30% of these doctors had no contract or service-level agreement for safeguarding work

Criminal Records Bureau reduces fees (15/07/09)

Some trusts lacked policies in key areas of child protection e.g. a third of acute trusts had no follow up process for children who miss outpatient appointments

- Boards need to give more attention to safeguarding, with almost a third having no presentation from child safeguarding professionals during 2008 disclosure applications being processed as the new Vetting and Barring Scheme goes live in October.

Lord Laming's recommendation of 400

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/crb-reduces-fees>

- The survey found that on average: only about half of healthcare staff eligible in each NHS trust are recorded as having up-to-date basic training (54%, level 1)

New CRB Business Plan (15/07/09)
This plan covers the financial year 2009/10 and outlines the key priorities for the year ahead and sets out the programme of activity (35% level 2). In 2007/8, around 1 in 10 consultations in GP practices were with children 14 or under.

- over half of eligible clinical staff in emergency or urgent care (hospitals) are recorded as having up-to-date training (58%, level 2). In 2007/8, around 3m children under 16 attended A&E.

The Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) (No. 2) Regulations 2009 SI 1882

This instrument amends the purposes for which an enhanced criminal record certificate can be issued under s113B Police Act 1997 and also prescribes the cases in which people making an application may

CQC'S improvement programme includes:

- asking all NHS trusts to make public declarations against the core standard on safeguarding as part of the annual performance ratings
- Inspectors to check on action being taken in trusts declaring non-compliance and where there is a discrepancy between the declarations and the data collected
- making available individual trusts results so organisations can benchmark themselves and look for ways to improve.
- Ofsted and CQC will carry out week-long inspections focusing on safeguarding and the health of looked-after children.
- urging govt to expand existing yearly data collection exercise on children's services to provide an annual update on performance against measures to safeguard children.
- using its new registration system – from April 1 2010 – to drive improvement. From January, NHS trusts can apply to be registered with CQC, against legally enforceable standards, including standards on safeguarding children. To be successful, they must meet legally enforceable standards on safeguarding of children. The regulator has a range of powers to enforce compliance, including registering trusts with conditions and issuing fines and forcing closure.

http://www.cqc.org.uk/newsandevents/newstories.cfm?cit_id=35225&FAArea1=customWidgets.content_view_1&usecache=false
<http://www.cqc.org.uk/publications.cfm?fdeid=12694>

http://www.cqc.org.uk/db/documents/Safeguarding_Children_200907153039.pdf
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_102864

http://www.ecpat.org.uk/downloads/StolenFutures_ECPATUK_2009.pdf

White Paper – Your Child, Your Schools, Our Future: building a 21st century schools system – LGA briefing

Every LA to receive financial boost for out-of-hours services (17/07/09)

Children's Minister Dawn Primarolo has announced the regional breakdown of £167m to boost out of hours services offered in schools across the country.

Extended services in schools provide children and young people with innovative and exciting things to do before and after the school day, enabling parents to stay at work for longer, safe in their knowledge their child is being looked after and entertained. The money is part of the extended services subsidy which has been allocated £8.5m in 2008-9; £40m in 2009-10 and £167m in 2010-11.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0136

Allegations Against School Staff (16/07/09)

This report is the outcome of an inquiry by the Children, Schools and Families Committee which sought evidence on:

- The scale and nature of allegations of improper conduct made against school staff
- Whether staff subject to allegations should remain anonymous while the case is investigated
- Whether the guidance available to head teachers, school governors, police and others on how to handle claims of improper conduct by school staff should be revised, with particular reference to:
 - the procedures to be followed by disciplinary panels;
 - when suspension of the staff member concerned is appropriate;
 - when arrest of the staff member concerned is appropriate; and
 - the retention of records of allegations found to be false.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmchilsch/695/69502.htm>

Family learning (17/07/09)

This small scale survey report evaluates aspects of family learning and its benefits for adult participants and their children, their families and the wider community.

Between September 08 and March 09, inspectors visited 23 LA adult and community learning services that were receiving Learning and Skills Council funding for wider family learning, family literacy, language and numeracy, and family learning impact funding. The survey explores a range of delivery models, gives examples of good practice and makes recommendations for improvement.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Family-learning>

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance Practitioners' Guide 2009-10

This guide aims to help school staff fulfil their responsibilities as 'first-in-line' providers of careers education, and information, advice and guidance (IAG).

It will enable the providers to support parents, carers and guardians in helping their children make wise choices. This guide further suggests ways of working more effectively with Connexions and other partners to target help for students with particular needs.

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=384-7&>

Preventable Child Deaths in England - Year Ending 31 March 2009 (16/07/09)

LSCBs have a statutory responsibility to review the deaths of all children from birth (excluding still born babies) up to 18 years, who are normally resident within their area. This is known as the Child Death Review Process (CDRP). The duties of the LSCB, set out in Ch7 of *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, include setting up a Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) which reviews child deaths on behalf of the LSCB.

This Statistical Release provides figures on child deaths which have been reviewed by CDOPs in England.

Key Findings are:

- LSCBs in England reviewed 2,000 deaths between 01 April 2008 and 31 March 2009, of which 110 were considered to have been preventable (5%).
- The South West of England has the highest proportion of child deaths assessed as preventable (15%) and the North West of England has the lowest proportion (2%).
- Approximately 41% of all child deaths were reviewed by LSCBs in 2008-09. (Based on the number of deaths registered in 2007. This has been used as an estimate for the total number of child deaths in 2008-09 as in England these numbers do not vary greatly year on year).
- Summary information has been derived from statistical data supplied by the 144 LSCBs in England. 92 CDOPs review child deaths on behalf of these LSCBs.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000863/STR_PreventableChildDeaths2.pdf
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000863/index.shtml>
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR036.pdf>

Safeguarding children from forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) (17/07/09)

New practice guidelines on handling cases of forced marriage were published on 2 July 2009. This letter from Baroness Morgan encourages schools to access these guidelines and make full use of them.

As the summer holidays are a peak period for cases of forced marriage and FGM, schools and LAs are encouraged to be alert to the signs of potential abuse. A factsheet on FGM produced by the Government Equalities Office is also available.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/news-and-communications/news/170709niforcedmarriageandfgm/>
<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=13849>

London Safeguarding Trafficked Children Toolkit (July 2009 update)

This has now been revised to take account of the implementation of the National Referral Mechanism from April 2009.

The main changes are confined to the Trafficking Assessment and Referral to Competent Authority at appendix 16 and 17. Section 6.4 has also been substantially amended to better reflect the new requirements.

The Risk Assessment Matrix at Appendix 9 has been revised to remove the heading for control.

<http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/>
http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/files/resources/trafficking/london_safeguarding_trafficked_children_toolkit_july_2009.pdf

Cafcass Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09 (16/07/09)

This Report focuses on the progress made in the last year in improving services.

Anthony Douglas, Chief Executive said, "This year we have achieved many of the objectives that were set and agreed with the DCSF at the beginning of 2008-09. We have successfully implemented our new structure, which has resulted in smaller and more manageable local teams, and has allowed us to provide more intensive supervision and support to our frontline practitioners, in conjunction with the introduction of a robust performance management framework, Quality for Children. Our 3 year grant from the DCSF has helped us to invest in our practice improvement agenda that will continue to be the focus of our efforts in the coming year.

Our enduring aspiration is to provide a first rate service to all of the children and families we work with and to contribute to the well-being of children throughout England. I am confident that our stronger infrastructure and the foundations for practice improvement, which have already been laid, will provide the basis from which rapid enhancement of our service can now be made. There is still much work to be done but, as this Report demonstrates, each year we move closer to a service of which we can be justifiably proud."

http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/news/2009/cafcass_annual_report_2008-09.aspx

2nd Set of Care Statistics Published

Cafcass has released the figures for the care statistics for the first quarter of 2009-10.

<http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/idoc.ashx?docid=f3d87ede-7755-4925-952d-fb205b2df4be&version=1>

Inquiry into CAF/CASS Cymru (14/07/09)

This inquiry found that although significant progress has been made since the service was devolved to the Welsh government in 2005, this progress needs to continue with "added urgency".

The report also highlights the tension between the 'welfare' based environment in which CAF/CASS is required to work and the 'rights-based' approach adopted by the Welsh Assembly Government. The Committee recommends that Assembly Government Ministers address this issue in order to ensure that children in family court have a positive and child-centred experience in which their wishes and feelings are established and reported.

<http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/policy/documents/researchandreports/11925.html>
<http://www.assemblywales.org/cr-ld7632-e.pdf>

New Kidscape Course Launched

Parents and carers whose children are vulnerable to bullying can learn how best to support them. Helping a child turn a bullying situation around is difficult for many parents and carers. Watching a child suffer unleashes a wide range of emotions - and the first impulses may not be best. Other parents feel helpless in the face of school authorities, or wonder how to help the child cope. The whole family needs help to understand what is going on, and how to move forward.

This new one-day workshop for parents and carers offers the training they hope for to support their families, to teach their child how to work out the problem, and to find their own strengths they can employ in the process.

<http://www.kidscape.org.uk/>
<http://www.kidscape.org.uk/events/index.asp>

Protecting children in the digital world - update July 2009

To help parents protect their children when they surf the web or watch television, Ofcom has brought out a new guide which explains how to set up parental controls on digital TV sets. It also has tips on how parents can get to know more about the websites their children like to visit (including checking the 'favourites' folder) and talking about online 'dos and don'ts' like don't give our personal information.

<http://www.familyandparenting.org/internetSafety>

<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/advice/guides/media/managemedia.pdf>

London LA children's social care thresholds guidance

This is intended as a guide to help explain LA children's social care's application of thresholds to referrals made to its service.

This guidance was originally developed by a subgroup of the London Development Officers Network 18 months ago. Publication was put on hold when work began on producing a CAF Protocol for London, but as that project neared completion a number of requests were received to make the original guide available for local authorities to use alongside it as and if they wish.

Following additional consultation over May / June 2009, the guidance has been tweaked slightly to ensure it fits alongside the pan-London CAF protocol and is now presented for any local authority which finds it useful – please note that its use is not compulsory.

<http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/>

http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/files/resources/london_thresholds_guidance_july_2009.pdf

REACH: Guidance (14/07/09)

If you are a small or new organisation, this guide aims to tell you about the different ways of working with other organisations, where you can go for advice, and how you can improve the way you work.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/reachguidance>

REACH: Update report (14/07/09)

This report reviews progress to date against the five recommendations of the REACH report into raising the aspirations and attainment of Black boys and young Black men.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/reachupdatereport>

An Experimental Test of the Impact of Black Role Model Messages: Technical report (14/07/09)

This report summarises the main findings, conclusions and recommendations from an experimental study of the impact of different types of Black male role model on Black and non-Black school children and on young Black men.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/reachmessagestechnical>

Black Role Models: Which messages work? (14/07/09)

This report summarises findings from an experimental research study that explored the effect of different types of role model messages in order to identify those with the most positive potential impact on Black boys and Black young men, and to identify any potentially negative effects.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/reachmessages>

Think child, think parent, think family

Adult mental health services must routinely assess the needs of children of parents with mental health problems, as well as the needs of the adult. A new SCIE guide sets out how adults and children's services can improve family-wide support.

The key messages are:

- Think child, think parent, think family in order to develop new solutions to improve outcomes for parents with mental health problems and their families.
- Take a multi-agency approach, with senior level commitment to implement a think family strategy.
- Review whether criteria for access to adult mental health and children's services take into account the individual and combined needs of children, parents and carers.
- Ensure screening systems in adult mental health and children's services routinely and reliably identify and record information about adults with mental health problems who are also parents.
- Listen to parents and children – most want support that is flexible, based on a relationship with a key worker and takes account of their practical priorities.
- Build resilience and manage risk – ensure ready access to specialist mental health and children's safeguarding services when needed and that staff know who makes what decision in what circumstances.
- Be creative – consider allocating an individual budget to provide flexibility and tackle stigma by developing non-traditional ways of providing services.
- Increase every family member's understanding of a parent's mental health problem – to strengthen ability to cope.

<http://www.scie.org.uk/>

<http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/ataglance/ataglance09.asp>

<http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/guides/guide30/index.asp>

Sexual abuse and therapeutic services for children and young people

The gap between provision and need

(20/07/09)

This research looks at the availability and accessibility of therapeutic services for children and young people who have experienced sexual abuse in England, Wales, NI and Scotland. It finds there is a huge gap between the estimated need for services and service availability.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/Findings/sexual_abuse_therapeutic_services_wd_a67007.html

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/Findings/sexual_abuse_therapeutic_services_summary_wdf67005.pdf

Living with Poverty: A review of the literature on children's and families' experiences of poverty (20/07/09)

This report presents the findings from an extensive review of recent research examining the views and experiences of low-income children and parents, covering topics such as housing, schools, neighbourhoods, public services and family life. The author draws on evidence from in-depth interviews, focus groups, group work, case studies, participatory workshops and action research to describe the lived experience of contemporary poverty amongst children and parents in the UK.

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/report_abstracts/rr_abstracts/rra_594.asp

Digital Manifesto

The Children's Charities Coalition on Internet Safety published this manifesto in June. It features 42 recommendations to the UK Government, industry and others to provide better protection to children online.

<http://chisuk.blogspot.com/2009/06/press-release-launch-of-digital.html>

Consultations

The GTC Registration of Temporary Teachers from Relevant European States Regulations 2009 (15/07/09)

In order to comply with EU Directive 2005/36, which allows a qualified teacher from an EEA State or Switzerland to work on a temporary and occasional basis in another member country without Qualified Teacher Status, the DCSF is introducing a set of regulations which makes provision for these applicant teachers to temporarily register with the GTC for England or the GTC for Wales. This will ensure that they are subject to the same requirements and safeguards that are already in place for all other teachers in England and Wales.

Closing Date 7th October 2009

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1635&external=no&menu=1>

Conferences

Teenage partner violence in intimate relationships

2nd September 2009 London £150

This conference will launch a research study on violence to young people by their partners - sometimes called 'teenage dating violence'.

Rates of physical, sexual and emotional violence to girls by, particularly older, boyfriends were discovered to be worryingly high. The findings have implications for child welfare and wider policy.

The event will include practice-focused workshops and an opportunity to share knowledge about how to make use of the research findings to better support young people.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/newsandevents/CPCConferences/teenage_partner_violence_wda66923.html

Working together to safeguard children living with domestic violence

23rd September 2009 London £150

This conference will launch Children and families experiencing domestic violence: police and children's services' responses.

The conference focuses on developing effective interagency collaboration to safeguard children and their families experiencing domestic violence.

International and UK research findings in this area will be presented together with practice-based accounts from a range of professionals working to safeguard children and families.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/newsandevents/CPCConferences/domestic_violence_2009_wda66911.html

Child Sexual Abuse: An Analytical Approach

22nd September 2009 London £195

This conference is aimed at strategic and tactical crime and intelligence analysts in law enforcement and partner agencies also involved in combating child sexual abuse (e.g. local authorities, children's services) and those responsible for their management or for child abuse investigation strategies, including senior and principal analysts and intelligence managers.

Participants will:

- gain a greater understanding of the role of the analyst in child sexual abuse investigations, particularly those pertaining to online offending;
- challenge preconceptions about the online sexual abuse of children with objective and logical reasoning;
- have increased awareness of the environments in which abuse occurs, and of the methods used to commit offences against children;
- be encouraged to engage in predictive analysis to identify developing technologies liable to exploitation by offenders;
- explore practical analytical approaches to the investigation of child sexual abuse by means of scenarios; and
- consider strategic and tactical case examples which identify good practice and learning points.

<http://www.ceop.gov.uk/training/conferences/csaconference.asp>

Conferences (continued)

National Launch: Early Support in Wales

29th September 2009 Cardiff

Early Support is the Welsh Assembly Government's mechanism to improve the quality, consistency and co-ordination of services for disabled children under the age of five and their families.

<http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/11507.html>

Tackling childhood obesity: what schools, health and others can do

16th October 2009 London

£150 - £250 +VAT

This seminar will look at how children's trusts, LAs and partners can work together to promote healthy life styles and tackle childhood obesity and bring about the cultural shift needed to achieve national and local targets. It will consider the role of scrutiny and elected members and how to measure progress and know what works.

The event will look at how to use govt strategies and guidance, including *Healthy weight, healthy lives* (2008), the *One Year On report* (2009), and *Strategy for children and young people's health* (2009), at local level and work with local services and partners.

We will consider how to encourage behaviour change through leisure and other services, the need to involve parents as well as children, and the importance of engaging the community and understanding their

GSCC Annual Conference 2009

14th October 2009 London

This is an opportunity for the GSCC, social workers and employers to focus on how to ensure high standards in one of the most demanding professions in society. There will be speeches, workshops, and question and answer sessions, as well as opportunities throughout the day to network and to learn about the very latest developments in social work. Put the date in your diary and look out for more information on our website next month.

<http://www.gsccl.org.uk/News+and+events/Events/>

'New Challenges in Protecting Women and Children' - confronting Domestic Abuse & Violence, FGM, Forced or Arranged Marriage & Honour Based Violence

11th December 2009 London £140 - £205

This event will examine a range of contemporary issues in relation to Abuse and Violence against Women and Children. Presentations from leading experts will seek to inform the development of effective interventions and explore practice issues from political, legal and ideological perspectives.

<http://www.baspcan.org.uk/events.php>

This weekly newsletter collates information from various sources that is relevant to safeguarding children. Anyone working in this area who would like to be added to the circulation list can forward their details to – keithdriver@btinternet.com